

REMARKS

Claims 1-80 were pending in the present application. By virtue of this response, claims 2-5, 19, 20, 38, 39, 45-47, 69, 70 and 77 have been cancelled and claims 1, 6, 18, 24, 25, 37, 40, 42-44 and 68 have been amended. No new claims have been added. Accordingly, claims 1, 6-18, 21-37, 40-44, 48-68, 71-76 and 78-80 are currently under consideration. Amendment and cancellation of certain claims is not to be construed as a dedication to the public of any of the subject matter of the claims as previously presented. No new matter has been added.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-4, 18, 20, 26, 29-36, 42, 44-46, 48, 51, 53, 57-62, 68, 70, 77 are rejected as allegedly being unpatentable over Barron et al (U.S. Patent no. 6,019,437) in view of Tsai (U.S. Patent no. 5,785,295).

Additionally, the Office Action objected to claim 5 as depending from rejected base claims but determined that it would be allowable if re-written to include all the limitations of the rejected base claims. With this communication, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 2, 3, 4, and 5. Thus, it is believed that amended claim 1 is patentable over Barron et al. and Tsai.

Claims 6-17 and 26-36 were also objected to as depending from rejected base claims. Claims 6-17 are each ultimately dependent from amended claim 1. Thus, it is believed that claims 6-17 are also patentable over the cited references.

The Office Action objected to claim 19, depending from claims 1 and 18, as depending from rejected base claims but determined that it would be allowable if re-written to include all the limitations of the rejected base claims. With this communication, claim 18 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 1 and 19. Thus, it is believed that amended claim 19 is patentable over Barron et al. and Tsai.

Claims 19 and 20 have been cancelled. Claims 21-23 are each ultimately dependent on amended claim 18. Thus, it is believed that claims 21-23 are patentable over the cited references.

The Office Action objected to claims 24 and 25, both depending from claim 1, as depending from a rejected base claim but determined that both claims would be allowable if re-written to include all the limitations of the rejected base claim. With this communication, claims 24 and 25 have been amended to include the limitations of claim 1. Thus, it is believed that amended claims 24 and 25 are patentable over Barron et al. and Tsai.

The Office Action objected to claims 37 and 43, both depending from claim 1, as depending from a rejected base claim but determined that both claims would be allowable if re-written to include all the limitations of the rejected base claim. With this communication, claims 37 and 43 have been amended to include the limitations of claim 1. Thus, it is believed that amended claims 37 and 43 are patentable over Barron et al. and Tsai.

Claims 38 and 39 have been cancelled.

Claims 40 and 41 are dependent on amended claim 37 and, thus, is also believed patentable over Barron et al. and Tsai.

Regarding rejected claim 44, the Office Action objected to claim 47 as depending from rejected base claims but determined that it would be allowable if re-written to include all the limitations of the rejected base claims. With this communication, claim 44 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 45, 46 and 47. Thus, it is believed that amended claim 44 is patentable over Barron et al. and Tsai.

Claims 42 and 48-67 are each ultimately dependent on amended claim 44 and thus, are also believed patentable over the cited references. Claims 45-47 have been cancelled.

Regarding rejected claim 68, the Office Action objected to claim 69 as depending from rejected base claim 68 but determined that it would be allowable if re-written to include all the

limitations of the rejected base claims. With this communication, claim 68 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 69. Thus, it is believed that amended claim 68 is patentable over Barron et al. and Tsai.

Claims 71-76 are each ultimately dependent on amended claim 68 and, thus, are also believed patentable over the cited references. Claims 68 and 70 have been cancelled.

Claim 77 has been cancelled.

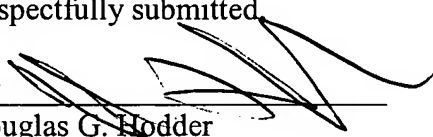
CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. **356952000621**. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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